

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00817 301547Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----301600Z 116551 /46

R 301515Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7092
INFO USLO RIYADH
AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0817

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: (A) STATE 18236 (B) STATE 15612 (C) STATE 17968

1. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ROYAL PROTOCOL, MANSUR KHURAIJI, CONCERNING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO RIYADH. (WE ARE IN TOUCH ALSO WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT ROYAL PROTOCOL WILL HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SCHEDULING AND MOST ARRANGEMENTS.) KHURAIJI INFORMED US OF THE SAG'S DEEP INTEREST IN THE VISIT AND INTENTION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE IT FRUITFUL AND PLEASANT. HE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL NEXT WEEK (I.E. SAUDI WORK WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 5).

2. KHURAIJI SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF OUR SENSE OF URGENCY IN PUTTING TOGETHER A SCHEDULE AND MAKING OTHER ARRANGEMENTS BUT THAT THIS WEEK ROYAL PROTOCOL IS OVERSTRETCHED HANDLING VISITS BY GERMAN ECONOMICS MINISTER (WHO HERE FOR SAUDI-GERMAN JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION), NORTH YEMEN FOREIGN MINISTER (WHO HERE WITH LARGE DELEGATION FOR SAUDI-YAR JOINT COORDINATION MEETING), ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND SEVERAL
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00817 301547Z

GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS.

3. GIVEN THE CRUSH OF VISITORS ROYAL PROTOCOL NOW TRYING TO COPE WITH, WE WOULD PREFER--IF THE DEPARTMENT CONCURS-- NOT TO PRESS FURTHER UNTIL SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5. ROYAL PROTOCOL, AND KHURAIJI IN PARTICULAR, ARE EXPERIENCED AND FAMILIAR WITH THE REQUESTS WE WILL BE MAKING IN CONNECTION

WITH SECRETARY'S VISIT AND WILL RESPOND QUICKLY ONCE THEY
HAVE FOCUSED ON IT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE SEEING FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE
SAUD SHORTLY (PROBABLY TOMORROW MORNING--JANUARY 31) AND WILL
BE DISCUSSING THE VISIT WITH HIM. AFTER THAT MEETING WE
EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE
SCENARIO OF THE VISIT BUT DETAILED SCHEDULE MUST BE WORKED
OUT WITH ROYAL PROTOCOL--WHICH ALONE CAN COMMIT THE TIME OF
THE KING AND CROWN PRINCE.

5. IN THE MEANTIME WE ARE PROCEEDING WITH ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE VISIT WHICH INVOLVE OUR RESOURCES AND LOWER LEVEL
CONTACTS WITHIN THE SAG.
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